

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07523

BERLIN PLEASE PASS CCMS COORDINATOR PAUL VON WARD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CCMS, NATO
SUBJECT: BRITISH SECOND THOUGHTS RE CCMS

1. UK PERMREP KILLICK TOLD CHARGE AUGUST 8 THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT LONDON IS RECONSIDERING EXTENT OF BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN CCMS ACTIVITIES. HE SAID HIS CCMS ACTION OFFICER HAS HEARD THAT BRITISH SCIENTIFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS ARE ARGUING THAT WHILE CCMS HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING NEW APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, THEY WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY STRAPPED FOR TIME AND ARE SUGGESTING THE UK REDUCE ITS CCMS ACTIVITIES.

2. KILLICK SAID HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN ESTABLISHMENT OF CCMS AND VALUED ITS WORK. THE BRITISH, HE SAID, BELIEVED THE ORGANIZATION WAS RUNNING OUT OF NEW PROJECTS AND THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CREATE ARTIFICIALLY NEW ONES. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE U.S. CONTINUED TO PLACE
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AS HIGH A VALUE ON CCMS AS IT HAD DURING THE COMMITTEE'S EARLY DAYS. MIGHT NOT ONE ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING NOW SUFFICE.

3. CHARGE SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY LESSENING OF U.S. INTEREST IN CCMS ACTIVITY. U.S. OFFICIALS FOUND CCMS VALUABLE BOTH AS A FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND AS A

MECHANISM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELATED FIELDS. HE ADDED THAT INITIAL IMPETUS FOR CCMS WAS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL, DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT NATO'S INTEREST AND ACTIVITIES EXTENDED BEYOND PURELY DEFENSE AND SECURITY MATTERS AND THAT REDUCTION OF INTEREST IN CCMS WOULD HAVE AN OPPOSITE IMPACT ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF NATO.

4. KILLICK SAID THIS LATTER POINT WAS OF INTEREST. HE HOPED THE U.S. COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH ADDITIONAL "AMMUNITION" TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE EFFORTS IN LONDON TO REDUCE UK INVOLVEMENT IN CCMS. GLITMAN

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